

MESSAGE TO SOLDIERS LEAVING FOR FRANCE  
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went to war, but we have owed to them our  
safety for the  
months since when we have been preparing to  
begin to get  
ready to go in.

"There is a two-fold lesson from that; first  
let us re-  
solve that never again will we be caught so  
unprepared,  
and next let us remember that the strain has  
not come to  
us yet; that the strain, when our men begin  
to be killed  
by the scores and thousands, when the pressure  
comes upon  
us, will be felt some time next year. Then,  
friends, you will  
have the chance to show the stuff that is in  
you. Then the  
weakling, the coward, the fool, the short-  
sighted one, all<sup>1</sup>  
will join together to clamor for a patched-up  
peace, to pray  
for something that will give temporary  
respite at the cost  
of future damnation."

He gave warm support to the candidacy of  
John Purroy  
Mitchel for reelection as Mayor of New York  
City, making  
several speeches in behalf of that able and  
upright public  
official, whom the city did not appreciate till  
he met his  
death while fitting himself for airplane service  
in France.  
His fellow citizens, who had failed to reelect  
him, united in  
giving him a public funeral, Koosevolt walking  
as a private  
citizen in the procession, which was one of the  
most im-  
pressive the city had ever known.

After returning from the West, Roosevelt  
made many  
speeches in the various military training  
camps and other  
places, insisting upon the vital need of  
universal military  
service, of constructive criticism of war  
measures, and of

the speeding up of war preparations.

In January, 1918, he visited Washington and held conference with Senators and Congressmen on matters connected with the war. While there he made an address before the National Press Club, on January 24, in which he said:

"Our rule should be the same for the nation as for the individual. Do not get into a fight if you can possibly avoid it. If you get in, see it through. Don't hit if it is honorably possible to avoid hitting, but never hit soft. Don't hit